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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/849,558	05/20/2004	Jason D. Rivers	005242.00084	6569
22907 7590 05/14/2007 BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD. 1100 13th STREET, N.W. SUITE 1200 WASHINGTON, DC 20005-4051			EXAMINER WOODWARD, ANA LUCRECIA	
			ART UNIT 1711	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 05/14/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/849,558

Applicant(s)

RIVERS ET AL.

Examiner

Ana L. Woodward

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE three MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on February 23, 2007
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 11-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 6, 7, 10, 12 and 14-20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 8, 9, 13 and 21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. .
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. <u> </u> |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u> </u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <u> </u> |

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DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. As regards claims 18-20, pursuant to the procedures set forth in MPEP § 821.04(b), once the product of group I is found allowable, claims 18-20, directed to the process of using the allowable product, previously withdrawn from consideration as a result of a restriction requirement, will be rejoined and fully examined for patentability under 37 CFR 1.104.
2. This application contains claims 6, 7, 10, 12 and 14-17 drawn to an invention nonelected with traverse in the reply filed on July 28, 2006. A complete reply to the final rejection must include cancellation of nonelected claims or other appropriate action (37 CFR 1.144) See MPEP § 821.01.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102/103

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-4 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over U.S. 6,395,356 (Wielockx et al).

Wielockx et al disclose food casings having a fibrous reinforcement impregnated with a viscose coating composition comprising a viscose solution (not precluded from the present claims), a food grade thermosetting cationic resin (reading on the presently claimed polymeric quaternary amine cure accelerant) and a protein (reading on the presently claimed protein) for imparting to said film adherence properties. The protein is used in conjunction with the resin in an amount of from 0.001 to 2.5 weight percent based upon cellulose content. The ratio of resin to protein is from 100:1 to 1:1 and preferably from 100:1 to 10:1 (column 7, line 65 – column 8, line 2). In the examples mixtures of KYMENE polyamine-polyamide resin, reading on the presently claimed polymeric quaternary amine cure accelerant, and soy protein, reading on the presently claimed protein, are used in amounts falling within the scope of the present claims, i.e., excess KYMENE to soy protein.

The disclosure of the reference meets the requirements of the present claims both with respect to types of materials added and their contents. The reference coatings having adherence properties imparted by the presence of the thermosetting cationic resin, fulfills the presently claimed “thermosetting adhesive composition”. The onus is shifted to applicants to establish that the product of the present claims is not the same as or obvious from that set forth by the reference.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. Claims 5, 11, 13 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 6,395,356 (Wielockx et al) described hereinabove.

Wielockx et al differ in essence from claims 5, 11 and 13 in not expressly disclosing an aqueous solution of the cationic resin. The reference, however, teaches that the preferred

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KYMENE crosslinking agents are water-soluble (column 6, lines 50-53). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill to have employed a water-based crosslinking agent, e.g., water-based KYMENE, for its expected additive effect and with the reasonable expectation of success.

As to claim 21, patentees teach that a wide range of (soy) proteins can be used (column 7, lines 3-5). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have employed any soy protein with the reasonable expectation of success, absent evidence of criticality therefor.

Response to Amendments

7. Applicants' amendments filed February 23, 2007 have effectively overcome the previous rejection based on WO 99/61538.

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

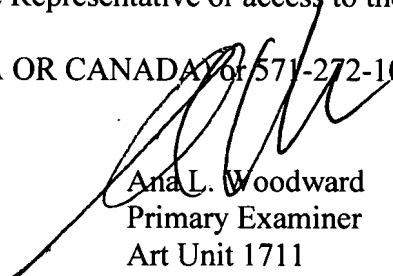
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however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ana L. Woodward whose telephone number is (571) 272-1082. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:30-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James J. Seidleck can be reached on (571) 272-1078. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Ana L. Woodward
Primary Examiner
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